



ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

By this Amendment, pending claims 9-16 have been canceled and new claims 17-21 have been substituted therefor to better claim the patentable feature of the demand regulator. It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

In new independent claim 17, the feature of having a member which cooperates with a mask storage box is claimed. This member causes the pilot valve chamber to be in communication with the atmosphere when the demand regulator and mask are in the storage box. The two embodiments shown in figures 1,3 and figure 2 are then claimed in respective dependent claims 18-19 and 20-21.

None of the cited references disclose the claimed invention including such a member which cooperates with a storage box – including the previously applied Algur '846 patent and the Bertheau '102 patent. In addition, neither the use of a control valve (44) as particularly claimed in claims 18-19 for this purpose nor the use of the selector member (38) as particularly claimed in claims 20-21 for this purpose are disclosed in the cited art.

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that new claims 17-21 are all allowable.